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November 5, 2002

Media Advisory

Noted author, journalist, war hero to speak at NPS

Date/Time:

Thursday, November 7
3 p.m.

Location:

King Hall Auditorium
Naval Postgraduate School

Media Credentials:

Deadline to obtain media credentials
Wednesday, November 6
Details on page 2

A former Secretary of the Navy, recipient of the Navy Cross, and best-selling novelist will be guest speaker at the Naval Postgraduate School Thursday, November 7 at 3 p.m.

James Webb, who was awarded the Navy Cross, a Silver Star medal, two Bronze Star medals, and two Purple Heart medals while serving with the Fifth Marine Regiment in Vietnam and later wrote *Fields of Fire* (1978), a book that many consider to be the classic novel of the Vietnam War, will discuss current defense issues during his presentation.

Webb's career has been marked by distinguished national service and award-winning journalism. In government, he served in the U.S. Congress as counsel to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs from 1977 to 1981, was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs from 1984 to 1987, and Secretary of the Navy from 1987-1988.

Webb has written six best-selling novels: *Fields of Fire* (1978), *A Sense of Honor* (1981), *A Country Such As This* (1983), *Something To Die For* (1991), *The Emperor's General* (1999) and *Lost Soldiers* (2001). His PBS coverage of the U.S. Marines in Beirut earned an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Webb is currently working on a film version of *Fields of Fire* with RKO Productions. Award-winning cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, who won Oscars for cinematography in *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan*, will direct the movie, which has the support of the Marine Corps and government of Vietnam. Current plans are to begin shooting *Fields of Fire* in December, with the Vietnam segments of the film to begin in January 2003.

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About the Naval Postgraduate School

The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to enhance U.S. national security through graduate, executive and professional education programs focusing on the unique needs of military leaders, with research and advanced studies directed towards the needs of the Navy and Department of Defense. NPS students come from all U.S. services and the services of nearly 45 countries. For additional information, see <http://www.nps.navy.mil>.

NOTE TO ALL EDITORS/ASSIGNMENT EDITORS: MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Media wishing to cover Mr. Webb's presentation must contact Lt. Cmdr. Joe Navratil, NPS Public Affairs Officer, at 656-3649 or 277-1251 (cell), or John Sanders, at 656-3346/277-4299 (cell) no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6 to obtain media credentials.

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